

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA
CHARLOTTE DIVISION
CIVIL ACTION NO. 3:18-CV-449-GCM-DCK**

JEFFREY W. TUTTLE,

Plaintiff,

v.

**HARRIS TEETER SUPERMARKETS, INC.,
HARRIS TEETER, LLC, HARRIS TEETER
LONG TERM DISABILITY PLAN, and
AETNA LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY,**

Defendants.

ORDER

THIS MATTER IS BEFORE THE COURT on “Defendants’ Motion To Dismiss And Substitute Parties And For Extension Of Time To Answer Complaint” (Document No. 6) filed September 12, 2018. This motion has been referred to the undersigned Magistrate Judge pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(b), and immediate review is appropriate. Having carefully considered the motion, the record, and applicable authority, the undersigned will deny the motion.

STANDARD OF REVIEW

Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 15 applies to the amendment of pleadings and allows a party to amend once as a matter of course within 21 days after serving, or “if the pleading is one to which a responsive pleading is required, 21 days after service of a responsive pleading or 21 days after service of a motion under Rule 12(b), (e), or (f), whichever is earlier.” Fed.R.Civ.P. 15(a)(1). Rule 15 further provides:

(2) Other Amendments. In all other cases, a party may amend its pleading only with the opposing party’s written consent or the court’s leave. The court should freely give leave when justice so requires.

Fed.R.Civ.P. 15(a)(2).

DISCUSSION

On September 23, 2018, Plaintiff timely filed an “Amended Complaint” (Document No. 7) pursuant to Fed.R.Civ.P. 15(a)(1)(B). The Amended Complaint supersedes the original Complaint; therefore, the undersigned will direct “Defendants’ Motion To Dismiss And Substitute Parties And For Extension Of Time To Answer Complaint” (Document No. 6) be denied as moot. Defendants may file a renewed motion to dismiss the Amended Complaint, if appropriate.

It is well settled that a timely-filed amended pleading supersedes the original pleading, and that motions directed at superseded pleadings may be denied as moot. Young v. City of Mount Ranier, 238 F.3d 567, 573 (4th Cir. 2001) (“The general rule ... is that an amended pleading supersedes the original pleading, rendering the original pleading of no effect.”); see also, Fawzy v. Wauquiez Boats SNC, 873 F.3d 451, 455 (4th Cir. 2017) (“Because a properly filed amended complaint supersedes the original one and becomes the operative complaint in the case, it renders the original complaint ‘of no effect.’”); Colin v. Marconi Commerce Systems Employees’ Retirement Plan, 335 F.Supp.2d 590, 614 (M.D.N.C. 2004) (“Earlier motions made by Defendants were filed prior to and have been rendered moot by Plaintiffs’ filing of the Second Amended Complaint”); Brown v. Sikora and Associates, Inc., 311 Fed.Appx. 568, 572 (4th Cir. Apr. 16, 2008); and Atlantic Skanska, Inc. v. City of Charlotte, 3:07-CV-266-FDW, 2007 WL 3224985 at *4 (W.D.N.C. Oct. 30, 2007).

CONCLUSION

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED that “Defendants’ Motion To Dismiss And Substitute Parties And For Extension Of Time To Answer Complaint” (Document No. 6) is **DENIED AS MOOT**.

SO ORDERED.

Signed: October 3, 2018

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D.C. Keesler', is written over a horizontal line.

David C. Keesler
United States Magistrate Judge

